

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

----- 079074

R 050245Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391

C O N F I D E N T I A L X E W D E L H I 10500

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS FROM BOMBAY  
DTD AUG 4.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1939

E.O. 911652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IN

SUBJ: POLITICAL SITUATION WESTERN INDIA

1. INSOFAR AS WE CAN SEE THE OPPOSITION IS IN DISARRAY IN THIS  
REGION AND THEIR EFFORTS TO PROTEST AND MANIFEST DISSENT ARE NEITHER  
SIGNIFICANT NOR MEANINGFUL AS FAR AS OVERALL POLITICAL SCENE IS CON-  
CERNED. THE AUG ONE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF TILAK APPEARS TO HAVE  
PASSED PEACEFULLY AND QUIETLY. CONGRESSMEN IN BOMBAY GARLANDED  
TILAK'S STATUE AND IN PROCESS STOLE THE LIMELIGHT ON THIS ONE. THERE  
WERE TO  
HAVE BEEN THREE PROTEST RALLIES IN POONA ON AUGUST ONE BUT THEY  
DID NOT MATERIALIZE. OPPOSITION MORALE IS DECLINING AS WELL AS

ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR COURTING ARREST. DEFECTIONS SUCH AS THOSE  
WE READ ABOUT IN THE MP FROM THE JANA SANGH ARE LIKELY TO  
INCREASE AND FURTHER THIN OPPOSITION RANKS; ARRESTS UNDER  
MISA CONTINUE TO BE MADE DAILY IN MAHARASHTRA AND THE PRISONS, WE ARE  
TOLD, ARE BEING EXPANDED WHICH CONSTITUTES A FURTHER REMINDER  
THAT IT IS BETTER TO TOE THE LINE THAN DEVIATE. JOURNALISTS IN BOMBAY  
ARE UNHAPPY AND REFER TO THEMSELVES AS THE "GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED"

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BUT TOE THE LINE AS DO CONGRESSMENT WHO MAY HAVE RESERVATIONS

IN PRIVATE BUT NOT IN PUBLIC.

2. FON MIN Y.B. CHAVAN WAS IN MAHARASHTRA OVER WEEKEND AND ADDRESSED A CONGRESS WORKERS' MEETING IN POONA ON AUG ONE. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, CHAVAN "LASHED OUT" AT J.P. NARAYAN AND SAID

"HE HAD BECOME A PRISONER AND MOUTHPIECE OF THE REACTIONARY FORCES IN THE COUNTRY WHICH WERE OUT TO WEAKEN IT AND DIVIDE THE PEOPLE." ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "THE FORCES WHICH HAD PLANNED TO WRECK THE COUNTRY WERE NOW LYING LOW AND NEEDED TO BE WATCHED." HE ALSO TOLD CONGRESSMEN THAT "UNDER THE NEW PROGRAMME THEY COULD NOT MERELY RELY ON BUREAUCRACY, BUT WILL HAVE TO INVOLVE LIKE-MINDED PARTIES AND PERSONS AND MOST IMPORTANT AMONG THEM, THE SECTIONS BELOW THE POVERTY LINE FOR WHOM THESE PROGRAMMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED." HE ADDED THAT CONGRESSMEN NEEDED

TO CHANGE THEIR MODE OF WORK AND "TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES ACTIVELY IN INCREASING PRODUCTION IN THE FIELD AND FACTORIES". COMMENT: CONGEN POLITICAL ASSISTANT WHO WAS IN POONA OVER WEEKEND SAID THERE WAS EXTREMELY LARGE POLICE TURNOUT FOR CHAVAN. FROM ALL HE COULD GATHER, CHAVAN CRITICIZED OPPOSITION, DEFENDED MRS GANDHI AND GENERALLY "TOOK THE LINE".

3. GUJARAT CM PATEL WAS IN BOMBAY OVER WEEKEND AND MET WITH INDIAN MERCHANTS CHAMBER WHILE HERE. WE ARE TOLD BY CONTACTS THAT HE SAID HE WOULD NOT USE POLICE FORCE IN HIS STATE AGAINST DEMONSTRATIONS. ALSO THAT HE PRESSED FOR EARLY SOLUTION NARMADA RIVER DISPUTE.

4. NANI PALKHIVALA HAS SURFACED IN ADDRESSING THE SOUTH INDIAN EDUCATION SOCIETY'S INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES IN BOMBAY AUG ONE. PRESS QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THAT "HEREDITARY

MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS WAS AS OUTDATED AS HEREDITARY RULERSHIP AND DYNASTIC SUCCESSION IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRY WAS NOW REPLACED BY TECHNICAL MERITOCRACY."

COMMENT: FROM ALL WE HEAR, NANI WILL HAVE A HARD JOB REFURBISHING HIS IMAGE.

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BANE UNQUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 05 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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